

way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 10.

Nancy Petruccello has served as a voting machine custodian for many of the Jamestown voting machines. Even though she was running her own campaign this year, Nancy still found the time to serve as the custodian.

Nancy Petruccello is an amazing woman who ran a tremendous campaign. Many do not realize this, but Ms. Petruccello ran her campaign while dealing with the trials of having a brain tumor. She clearly loves her county and wanted to do what is best for it at any cost.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Ms. Petruccello is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor her today.

HONORING AL HUEZO, CITY
MANAGER OF NEWARK, CA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the city of Newark, CA's extraordinary city manager, Alberto "Al" T. Huezo. After a long and illustrious career, he will retire on December 30, 2005.

He was hired by the city on July 1, 1974 and promoted to the position of city manager on July 1, 1996. For the last 9 years, City Manager Huezo has guided Newark in an exemplary fashion. He defines his position as city manager as "the chief executive officer of an organization that provides municipal services." He emphasizes the word services and describes his role also as "an ambassador for the organization, someone who actively markets and promotes that organization to people on the outside, potential customers and certainly customers within." During his tenure as city manager he never lost his focus on service.

When asked how he would like to be remembered, Mr. Huezo responded "as a man who didn't take himself too seriously, someone who did his job with passion and gusto." Among his legacies to the city is the development of Newark's Silliman Center, a modern multi-purpose community center, and maintaining city services through difficult fiscal issues and challenges. He points to the proudest moment of his career, as city manager, as being part of a team that dealt effectively with the nationally publicized Eddie "Gwen" Araujo homicide in Newark. This tragedy put the city under a microscope and communities acted with dignity and as a tightly knit group to face the challenge together.

Referring to his legacy, Mr. Huezo points to the people that he has promoted or brought into the city's organization and the key people in place to lead Newark forward.

I join the city of Newark and its residents in wishing Al Huezo all the best upon his well deserved retirement. He has been a trusted public servant and we shall miss his warm personality and the genuine, consistent caring he expressed when carrying out his duties to make Newark a model city. Thank you, Al Huezo, for making a positive difference with your commitment to excellence.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY M. LASSEN

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Mary M. Lassen, who has served more than a decade as president and CEO of the Women's Union in Boston. Mary Lassen has been an extraordinary force for social justice and effective reform. The Women's Educational and Industrial Union, established in 1877, supported suffrage, legal rights, and wider opportunities for women. Mary Lassen built upon those historic triumphs and led the union into a new century, working with and on behalf of poor and immigrant women. Under her leadership, the union has provided job training for women moving from welfare to work, supportive housing for survivors of domestic abuse, and compelling advocacy for family economic self-sufficiency.

Mary Lassen graduated summa cum laude from Radcliffe College, determined to secure liberty, justice, and opportunity for all persons. Her struggle against poverty and injustice has been both intellectual and pragmatic. She believes in rigorous analysis and sustained collaboration. After working as a community organizer, she became executive director of the Committee for Boston Public Housing. In that office, she introduced early childhood, antiviolenace and community building programs in several of Boston's public housing developments, and then, characteristically, she took time to reflect. In a sabbatical year, as a fellow of the Mary I. Bunting Institute at Radcliffe College, she produced a study of "Community-Based Family Support in Public Housing." During a public policy fellowship sponsored by the Japan Society, she explored women's employment and workforce development in East Asia. She has inspired the union's important research on Family Self-Sufficiency and helped forge the Massachusetts Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Project, MassFESS, a statewide coalition of organizations, to measure the real costs of living, working and paying taxes without subsidies and to frame policy in terms of these real costs.

Under her leadership, the Women's Union opened Horizons II, increasing by 30 percent the number of supportive transitional housing units for battered and homeless women and their children in the city of Boston. This year, the Women's Union celebrated the opening of a newly designed, state-of-the art, woman-focused technology training center. The title of their report expresses their goal: Achieving Success in the New Economy.

Several of the most daring, inspiring, and influential women in the history of our country have been associated with the Women's Union, sometimes as supporters, sometimes as clients: Louisa May Alcott, Julia Ward Howe, Helen Keller, and Amelia Earhart. Mary Lassen deserves a place among them.

HONORING FRED YEZZI ON HIS CAMPAIGN TO BE ELECTED TO THE CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 11

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fred Yezzi, a resident of Chautauqua County for his quest to become the elected representative to the 11th legislative district in the Chautauqua County Legislature. Although Mr. Yezzi was not able to realize his dream, he has been able to make an impact on other's lives in a different way.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Yezzi traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 11.

Mr. Yezzi has tried his hand in county politics a couple of times. That is a respectable trait to have. Determination to do good things for your county is one thing that Chautauqua County residents strive for.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong candidates with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Yezzi is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

STATEMENT HONORING SSG
DANIEL CUKA

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 6, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report the passing of SSG Daniel Cuka. He was killed while serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The lives of countless people were enormously enhanced by Daniel's goodwill and service. He inspired all those who knew him. Our Nation is a far better place because of his life. All Americans owe Daniel, and the other soldiers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom, a tremendous debt of gratitude for their service.

Every Member of the House of Representatives has taken a solemn oath to defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. While we certainly understand the gravity of the issues facing this legislative body, Daniel lived that commitment to our country. Today, we remember and honor his noble service to the United States and the ultimate sacrifice he has paid with his life to defend our freedoms and foster liberty for others.

Mr. Speaker, I express my sympathies to the family and friends of SSG Daniel Cuka. I believe the best way to honor him is to emulate his commitment to our country. I know he will always be missed, but his service to our Nation will never be forgotten.